

What is claimed is:

1. An inflatable escape slide assembly adapted to extend in an inflated condition from an aircraft exit door to a lower supporting surface, said inflatable escape slide assembly

comprising:

5 a flexible panel defining a slide surface having first and second lateral edges and extending from a head end of the inflatable escape slide assembly to a foot end of the inflatable escape slide assembly;

first and second main support members attached to said first and second lateral edges of said flexible panel, said first and second main support members each comprising an

10 inflatable tubular member extending from the head end toward the foot end of the inflatable escape slide assembly, said first and second main support members being disposed in a spaced-apart configuration for supporting said flexible panel;

a plurality of illumination sources; and

15 a plurality of stanchions, each of said plurality of stanchions comprising an inflatable tubular stanchion member having a fixed end attached to an upper surface of said first main support member, said stanchion member extending generally upward from the fixed end to a free end distal of said first main support member, each of said stanchion members supporting one of said plurality of illumination sources proximal the free end thereof.

2. The inflatable escape slide of claim 1, further comprising:

20 a second plurality of stanchions, each of said second plurality of stanchions comprising an inflatable tubular stanchion member having a fixed end attached to an upper surface of said second main support member, said stanchion member extending generally upward from the fixed end to a free end distal of said first main support member, each of said

stanchion members supporting one of said plurality of illumination sources proximal the free end thereof.

3. The inflatable escape slide of claim 1, wherein:

said plurality of illumination sources comprise light emitting diodes.

5 4. The inflatable escape slide of claim 1, wherein:

each of said plurality of illumination sources is supported a distance of at least 4 inches above the upper surface of said first main support member.

5. The inflatable escape slide of claim 1, further comprising:

10 a power supply; and

a switch responsive to opening of an aircraft exit door in an armed condition for making electrical connection between said power supply and said plurality of illumination sources thereby energizing said illumination sources for illuminating said inflatable escape slide.

15 6. The inflatable escape slide of claim 4, wherein:

said power supply comprises a reserve battery.

7. In an inflatable escape slide comprising in an inflated condition a flexible sliding

surface supported by a plurality of inflatable tubular support members including a pair of main side support members, the improvement comprising a plurality of illumination sources

20 supported by a plurality of inflatable tubular members, the plurality of illumination sources

being supported at an elevation above the inflatable main side support members a distance of

at least four inches above an upper surface of said main side support members measured perpendicular to the upper surface of the main side support members.

8. The improvement of claim 7, wherein the illumination sources are supported a distance of at least 10 inches above the upper surface of the main side support members